

What is Computational Complexity?

- Computational Complexity is a way to measure how much **time** and **memory (space)** an algorithm needs to solve a problem.

It helps us understand how efficient an algorithm is, especially when the **input size becomes large**.

Types of Complexity:

1. Time Complexity:

- Measures how long an algorithm takes to complete.
- Depends on the number of operations based on input size.

2. Space Complexity:

- Measures how much memory (**RAM**) an algorithm needs to run.
- It's not about time, but about how much space is used during the program's execution.

Order of Computational Complexity (Best to Worst):

1. $O(1)$ / Constant time (best & fastest): The algorithm takes the same amount of time regardless of the input size. **Example:** Array access by index.
2. $O(\log n)$ / Logarithmic time (fast): The time grows slowly as input size increases. **Example:** Binary Search.
3. $O(n)$ / Linear time (acceptable): The time increases directly in proportion to the input size. **Example:** Searching in a list element by element.

4. $O(n \log n)$ / linear and logarithmic (commonly used in sorting): A mix of linear and logarithmic growth. **Example:** Efficient sorting algorithms.
5. $O(n^2)$ / Quadratic time (slow): The time grows proportionally to the square of the input size. **Example:** Comparing each element with every other element in the array.
6. $O(2^n)$ / Exponential time (very slow): The time doubles with each additional input element. Algorithms that try all possibilities. **Example:** Solving problems using brute force.
7. $O(n^3)$ / Cubic time (slower): The time grows proportionally to the cube of the input size. **Example:** Triple nested loops.
8. $O(n!)$ / Factorial time (worst& slowest): The time grows extremely fast with input size / very inefficient. **Example:** Generating all possible permutations of a string.